(8) Government of India have recently enacted "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995". The Act provides prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment non-discrimination etc. for disabled persons including mentally retarded persons.

(9) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corpn. is being set up to provide an additional channel of finance at concessional rates to enable the handicapped persons to take up self-employment project.

Criticism by World Wild Fund

2595 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) has criticised the Directorate of Project Tiger for providing fictitious figures regarding the number of tigers killed illegally in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the factual position in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The Directorate of Project Tiger is a coordinating office of tiger project areas of the country. The informations received from the State Governments are compiled and disminated. Therefore, question of providing fictitious figures does not arise.

[Translation]

Para Military Forces in Uttar Pradesh

2596. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jawans of the para military forces deployed in Uttar Pradesh this year during the Assembly elections;

(b) whether any complaint has been lodged against the para-military forces during the elections, and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) 350 coys of Central Para Military Forces/State Armed Police of other States were deployed in Uttar Pradesh during Assembly Elections, 1996.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Livestock Policy

2597. KUMARI UMABHARATI: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to formulate a National Livestock Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether draft of the policy has been prepared and whether the same has been sent to the States for consultation; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has initiated steps to evolve a National Livestock Policy.

The Approach Paper on Livestock Policy was circulated to the State Governments. The draft national livestock policy will be discussed in the meeting of the State Ministers of Animal Husbandry proposed to be held at New Delhi on 16th December, 1996.

Rehabilitation of Displaced Indians

2598. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan given for rehabilitation to displaced Indian repatriated from Burma-Myanmar has been waived off;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the right of ownership of the land and Quarters allotted to them has been given to them;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide additional financial assistance to them for expansion of quarter/acquiring of more land;

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) if not, whether people have the right to expand the quarters allotted to them at their own expense?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b). As per the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission, all pre-1974 loans advanced to the State Governments for rehabilitation purposes which were outstanding as on 1.4.85 have been written off.

(c) Only loans for construction of houses were given to the repatriates from Burma. Ownership rights of the

land and quarters allotted to the repatriates are given by the concerned State Govts.

(d) No, sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Cyclone in A.P.

2599. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishermen missing or died in the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there was a weather forecast in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) According to the information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, 1059 people have lost their lives and 925 people are missing as a result of the November Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. Preliminary estimates indicate that about 500 of the dead and most of the missing people are from fishermen community.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Assistance to Polio Affected Persons by Voluntary Organisations

2600. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance and welfare measures extended to the polio affected persons in the country;

(b) whether the Government are extending financial assistance to the voluntary organisations engaged in the mission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) Polio affected persons who develop physical handicap can derive benefits from the schemes meant for welfare of handicapped persons. At present, apart from the facilities available at the Government Hospitals, National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped and Institute for the Physically Handicapped have been providing training programmes for manpower development in the field of orthopaedically handicapped. In addition, grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations is given under the various schemes of the Ministry of Welfare for education, training and rehabilitation of physically handicapped persons including polio affected persons.

Child Abuse Law

2601. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered to review the child abuse law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) The existing legal provisions appear to be quite strict but even so the Government would not be unresponsive to suggestions for improvement.

Camel Riding Allowance

2602. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to grant the camel riding allowance to the BSF personnel of Gujarat and Rajasthan posted on the Western Borders is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of monthly allowance proposed; and

(d) the annual expenditure likely to be incurred therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) No, sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Forest Land

2603. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar had sent any survey report for regularising the Forest Land occupied by the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) So far no proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for regularisation of